

HOUSE BILL 1723
By Turner L

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to secondary education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 5 of this act as a new, appropriately designated part.

SECTION 2. There is hereby established an advisory committee to the department of education to explore cooperative efforts between secondary schools and institutions of higher education for the purpose of creating an early college high school program to reduce high school dropout rates, increase high school graduation rates, decrease the need for remediation in institutions of higher education, and increase graduation rates from institutions of higher education offering associate and baccalaureate degrees or programs leading to a diploma or certificate.

SECTION 3. The committee shall consist of nine (9) members to be appointed by the commissioner of education to include representatives from the department of education, state board of education, teaching profession, children's advocacy organizations and higher education. The committee shall report annually to the commissioner.

SECTION 4. The duties of the committee shall include identification of means by which the following goals may be achieved:

- (1) Establishment of cooperative innovative high school programs;
- (2) Improvement of high school completion rates and reduction of high school dropout rates;
- (3) Closure of achievement gaps between various cohorts of students;

(4) Design and implementation of flexible, customized programs of learning for high school students who would benefit from accelerated, higher level coursework or early graduation; and

(5) Establishment of high quality alternative learning programs.

SECTION 5. The committee's duties shall also include developing a program to seek federal or philanthropic grant funding for implementation and operation of early college high school programs.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.